

Atty Ref. No: BC 40112-P04

Group II: claims 21-23, drawn to a method for processing blood in an apheresis system wherein the system includes the limitation of a prompting step wherein the operator performs the prompting step.

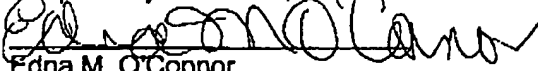
The Examiner in the Restriction Requirement asserts that the inventions have different modes of operation and therefore are distinct and require separate status in the art. Applicant believes both groups of claims are directed to a method of processing blood in an apheresis system and further are related to the presence of a first condition. As such, a single search and examination would not be burdensome on the Examiner. Applicant does not necessarily subscribe to the Examiner's description of the methods of the claimed invention as set forth in the Examiner's restriction in that the Examiner refers to inclusions in the system. The claims subject to the restriction requirement, are directed to a method having method steps.

In view of the foregoing remarks, restriction of the application is believed to be improper and withdrawal of the restriction requirement and examination of the claims of Group I and Group II together is respectfully requested.

It is believed no fee is due with the filing of this response. If Applicant is mistaken, please charge all required fees to Deposit Account number 032316.

2/10/03
Date

Respectfully submitted,



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